

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00334 280345Z

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1429

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FOR A/OS, LUEBKE AND EA/PRCM, ARMSTRONG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH CH

SUBJ: SCHOOLING OF USLO CHILDREN

REF: HOROWITZ LETTER TO LUEBKE OF DECEMBER 13.

1. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING DR. LUEBKE'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR USLO CHILDREN. BASED ON HIS RECOMMENDATIONS, AND ON WHETHER IT WILL BE FEASIBLE TO BRING AN AMERICAN TEACHER OR TEACHING COUPLE HERE, WE WILL SOON HAVE TO MAKE FIRM PLANS FOR THE COMING ACADEMIC YEAR.

2. WITH RESPECT TO AN AMERICAN TEACHER OR TEACHING COUPLE, THERE ARE QUESTIONS SUCH AS STATUS, PASSPORTS, HOUSING, AND PRIVILEGES THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED, AND IT WOULD BE NECESSARY, WE BELIEVE, TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE CHINESE. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY VIEWS OR COMMENTS THE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM.

3. THE FACTS ARE THAT WE NOW HAVE FIVE CHILDREN OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE ATTENDING BOTH THE PAKISTAN SCHOOL IN THE MORNINGS AND A TUTORING CLASS USING CALVERT MATERIALS IN THE AFTERNOONS. ACCORDING TO CURRENT INFORMATION, WE WILL HAVE SEVEN BY NEXT FALL OR EIGHT IF WE INCLUDE ONE KINDERGARTEN CHILD.

4. THE PAKISTAN SCHOOL IS STILL FAR FROM IDEAL, AND ITS

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PAGE 02 PEKING 00334 280345Z

CURRICULUM AND TEACHING METHODS ARE GENERALLY SUBSTANDARD.

HOWEVER, USLO PARENTS ARE NOT NOW INCLINED TO WITHDRAW THEIR CHILDREN FROM IT, BUT ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF CONTINUING IT ALONG WITH AN APPROPRIATE AMERICAN SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAM.

5. AS FOR THE CHINESE SCHOOL, THERE WERE RECENT ATTEMPTS IN PEKING BY THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO OBTAIN CHANGES IN ITS CURRICULUM AND TO SHORTEN THE SCHOOL DAY. THIS WOULD HAVE PERMITTED THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY TO ORGANIZE A SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAM IN ENGLISH. THESE PROPOSED CHANGES WERE NOT ACCEPTED, AND THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, AT LEAST IN SOME GRADES, EVEN WITHDREW FOREIGN TEXTBOOKS THAT HAD BEEN USED FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGES. SOME PARENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHO HAVE TEACHING EXPERIENCE ARE TRYING TO ORGANIZE SHORT SUPPLEMENTARY SESSIONS FOR SOME CHILDREN IN THE CHINESE AND PAKISTAN SCHOOLS THAT WOULD BEGIN AFTER 4. P.M. TWO DAYS A WEEK. IT IS THE VIEW OF USLO PARENTS THAT THE CHINESE SCHOOL AS NOW STRUCTURED, EVEN WITH THESE PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTARY SESSIONS, DOES NOT OFFER A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION FOR US.

6. OUR AFTERNOON CALVERT TUTORING CLASS HAS WORKED OUT WELL (AND IS THE ENVY OF OTHER PARENTS IN PEKING) ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT HAVE PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS AND ALTHOUGH THE CALVERT MATERIAL, AS DR. LUEBKE POINTED OUT, IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE SUPPLEMENT TO THE PAKISTAN SCHOOL CURRICULUM. IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO GET A PROFESSIONAL AMERICAN TEACHER OR TEACHING COUPLE, WE WOULD CONSIDER ASKING PAT HOLDRIDGE TO STAY ON TO CONTINUE TO RUN OUR PROGRAM NEXT YEAR, OR WE COULD TRY TO INTEREST ONE OF THOSE PARENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHO HAS TEACHING EXPERIENCE TO TAKE OVER. WE WOULD ALSO NEED ADVICE ON WHAT MATERIALS WE MIGHT USE IN LIEU OF CALVERT.

7. REQUEST PRCM PASS COPY OF THIS MESSAGE TO MR. BRUCE IF HE IS STILL IN WASHINGTON.
JENKINS

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